

Appln. No. 08/964,180 *
Response dated January 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 3, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The October 3, 2003 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, an interview was conducted with Examiner Nguyen, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to obviate the objection set forth by the Examiner.

INTERVIEW

The courtesy of Examiner Nguyen in granting an interview in connection with this application is acknowledged and appreciated. The interview took place on January 28, 2004. Present at the interview were Applicants' attorney, Robert Michal, and Examiner Nguyen. During the interview the October 3, 2003 Office Action was discussed. Specifically, Applicants' attorney explained how independent claims 2, 14, 22 and 30 are readable on elected species 14 and that the last Office Action indicating that the Amendment filed June 12, 2003 was non-responsive to the last Office Action is improper.

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As a result of the interview Examiner Nguyen requested Applicants' attorney to present the comments set forth in the interview in a written response to the October 3, 2003 Office Action so that the Examiner can carefully consider Applicants' comments.

NON-RESPONSIVE AMENDMENTS

In the October 3, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner states that the reply filed June 12, 2003 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because the Examiner contends that the limitation "correction parameter setting means" set forth in claims 2 and 14, "correction parameter setting program" set forth in claim 22 and the "correction parameter setting device" set forth in claim 30 reads on Fig. 2 and the corresponding description at page 19 of the specification, and not the elected species of Fig. 14. The Examiner further states that since the species of Figs. 1-2 is a non-elected species and since (in the Examiner's opinion) claims 2, 14, 22 and 30 were amended to include a limitation which reads on Figs. 1-2 and which does not read on the elected species of Fig. 14, the amendments are drawn to a non-elected invention and the response is therefore not fully responsive to the prior Office Action.

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In response, Applicants respectfully state that the Examiner's reading of the limitations "correction parameter setting means," "correction parameter setting program," and "correction parameter setting device" as being read on Figs. 1-2 is not accurate.

Applicants respectfully state that the aforementioned limitations are not based on the disclosure of Fig. 2 but on the disclosures in Figs. 14-15 (specifically the exposure time ratio setting section 63 of Fig. 15). Fig. 15 shows the detailed structure of the exposure time ratio calculating section 61 which is shown in Fig. 14. Since the limitations added to claims 2, 14, 22 and 30 are supported by Figs. 14 and 15 and the corresponding description at page 30, line 16 - page 31, line 22, inter alia, of the present application, claims 2, 14, 22 and 30 are readable on the elected species.

Applicants also respectfully state that the Examiner's statement regarding the correction parameter setting section 43, correction parameter storage section 42, and the distortion correction processing section 41 is incorrect. Instead, the correction parameter setting means should be construed as the exposure time ratio setting section 63 shown in Fig. 15 which adjusts the correction parameter (the exposure time ratio R_{exp})

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determined by the correction parameter calculating section 61 shown in Figs. 14 and 15, while the user checks the difference in brightness between images displayed by the image display means 44 shown in Fig. 15 (the difference in brightness between the images a and b in the fifth embodiment).

A similar interpretation should be used in connection with claims 22 and 30 wherein the "correction parameter setting program" and "correction parameter setting device" correspond to the exposure time ratio setting section 63 of Fig. 15.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner's objection to the reply filed June 12, 2003 as not being fully responsive to the prior Office Action has been overcome. Examination of this application on the merits in view of the amendments set forth in the June 12, 2003 reply is respectfully requested.

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If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims, and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encl.: Petition for Extension of Time